



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARTHAGE MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Carthage, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

Victor D. Strickland, 43, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to four years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 30, 2003, **Strickland** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Strickland** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .357 magnum revolver and ammunition on June 18, 2003, in Jasper County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Strickland** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for assault in the first degree in Jasper County.

Strickland was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Jasper County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Carthage, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow